THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Konark Jute Ltd. Dhanmandal, Orissa has been incurring losses since November, 1979 when it started commercial production. The reasons for losses include erratic market conditions, shortage of working capital, frequent power cuts, labour unrest etc.

(c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction is taking requisite steps for the rehabilitation of Konark Jute Ltd., under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Central Assistance to Handloom Weavers in Orissa

3315. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be oleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress condition of handloom weavers in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide necessary Central Assistance to raise economic status of these weavers; and

(c) the details of the incentive packages proposed to be introduced for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India is not aware of any specific report of distress conditions of handloom weavers in Orissa. However, the problem has been that of increase in prices of yarn used by handloom weavers.

(b) and (c) Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State and Cooperative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yam and exercise restraint in prices. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) has been asked to readjust their production plan to augment production of hank yarn of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. The Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State level reviews regarding supply, price, and distribution of hank yam. The Chief Ministers have also been advised to impress upon the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stock and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts, with a view to prevent hoarding of yarn.

In order to improve the economic conditions of handloom weavers in the country, including Orissa, Government of India is implementing a number of schemes of standing nature. During the current year few new schemes namey, (i) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme; (ii) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers; and (iii) Project Package Scheme have been introduced with a view to effectively intervene and prevent deterioration of conditions of handloom weavers. The following are the details of financial assistance provided by Government of India to Government of Orissa under various handloom development Scheme dur-

ing the last two years;—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Amount released 1990-91	Amount released 1991-92 (upto 18-3-92)
1.	Janata Cloth Scheme	890·92	700·64
2.	Special Rebate/Market Development Assistance Scheme	280·74	282·50
3.	Thrift Fund Scheme	13·24	..
4.	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	6·00	49·00
5.	Margin Money for Destitute Weavers	..	11·00
6.	Project Package Scheme	..	17·50
	Total :	1190·90	1060·64

भारतीय कपास निगम द्वारा कपास की बिक्री और खरीद

3316. **श्री राम अवधेश सिंह :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत 3 वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय कपास निगम द्वारा कपास की कितनी गांठों की खरीद की गई और यह खरीद किस मूल्य पर की गई तथा विदेशों को कपास की कितनी गांठों की बिक्री की गई और उन्हें किस मूल्य पर बेचा गया ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि गत 3 वर्षों से भारतीय कपास को विदेशों में घरेलू बाजार में विद्यमान मूल्यों से सस्ते दामों पर बेचा जाता रहा है, जिसके कारण देश को भारी नुकसान हो रहा है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार भारतीय कपास निगम के गत केजारीवत बिक्री सौदों की जांच कराने का विचार रखती है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : (क) एक विवरण संलग्न है । (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।